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## Letters

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### An American Freedom The C.I.A. Can Afford

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To the Editor:

The Oct. 1 letter by William Casey, Director of Central Intelligence, seems once again to call for the C.I.A.'s total exemption from the Freedom of Information Act. Although the agency has sought such an exemption for many years, it has failed to convince even its staunchest supporters on Capitol Hill that such drastic action is necessary.

Under existing procedures and court rulings, the C.I.A. can withhold any information that is properly classified or whose release would reveal intelligence sources and methods.

Judges have shown such deference to the C.I.A. that not a single sentence has been released over C.I.A. protest. At the same time, much important information about the C.I.A.'s relations with Americans and its covert operations abroad has been made public.

The experience over the last eight years demonstrates that the Freedom of Information Act and the effective functioning of the C.I.A. are compatible.

MORTON H. HALPERIN  
Director

Center for National Security Studies  
Washington, Oct. 4, 1982